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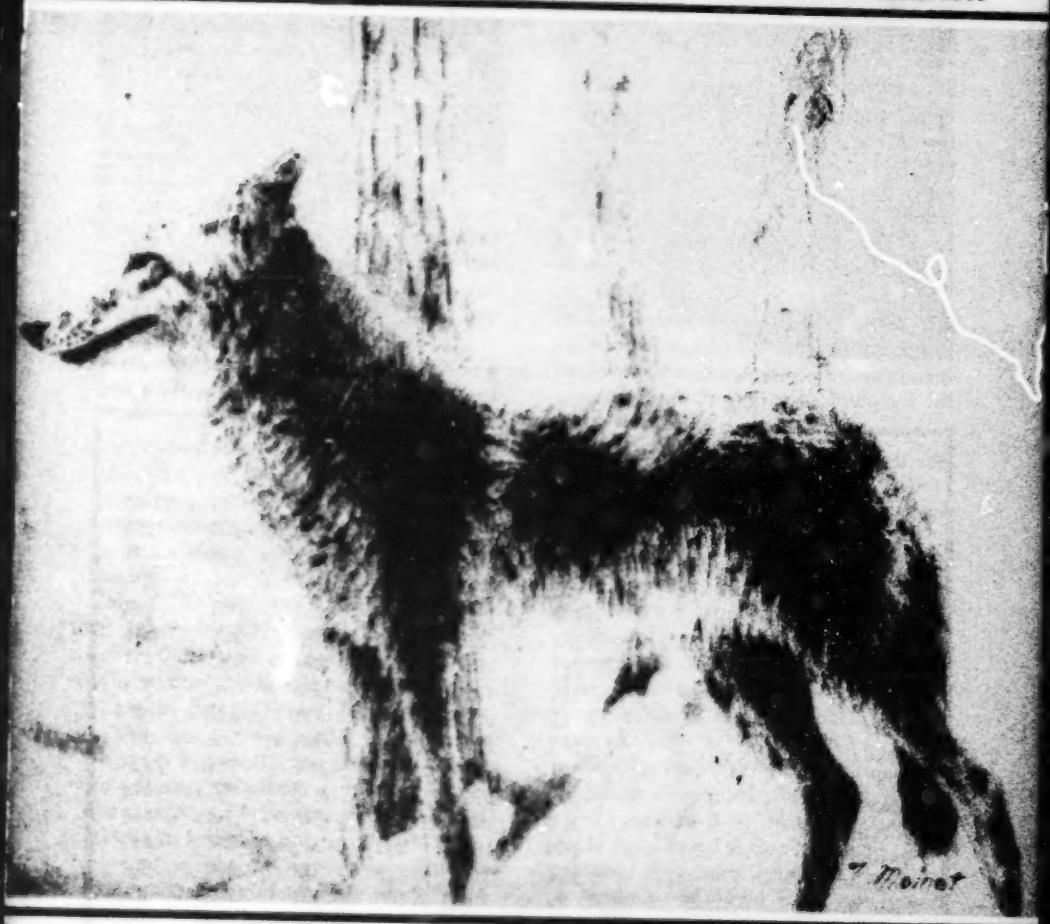

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Minister Hon. Ken Streatch
Deputy Minister D.L. Eldridge
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FURBEARER REPORT

by Neil van Nostrand

The combination of a marked drop in fur prices and the increasing scarcity of bobcat, beaver, fox and raccoon resulted in a decrease of 827 furbearer licenses issued in 1982. Total fur revenue also dropped from $1,198,838 in 1981-82 to $712,794 in 1982-83.

Beavers

Every year we examine the jawbones of beaver turned in by trappers to determine the age structure of the harvest. Results from western Nova Scotia (except Shelburne County) show a large percentage of the kill made up of 2½ and 3½ year olds and relatively few older animals being taken. This is the typical sign of a very heavy harvest (see last year's Trappers Newsletter).

Eastern Nova Scotia beaver age ratios reflected quite healthy populations except for Antigonish and Guysborough where the symptoms of over-trapping show up.

The combination of low pelt value, general scarcity and declining furbearer license sales should serve to correct the over-harvest situation this year.

Coyotes

About 40 coyotes were harvested in 1981-82, more than 70 last season and they are predicted to at least double again to 140 during 1983-84. The greatest harvests remain in the central parts of the province in the counties of Colchester, Halifax, Pictou, Guysborough and Antigonish. Five coyotes were taken in each of Yarmouth, Hants, Cumberland counties and northern Cape Breton Island. None have ever been reported taken in the counties of Cape Breton, Lunenburg or Queens.

Coyote populations are undergoing a rapid increase in density throughout the province. If you doubt they are in your area, take a walk along any woods road looking for dog-like scats containing rabbit and deer hair, insects, etc. The scats also have a distinctive coyote smell. Most trap and snare sets for fox or bobcat will not normally hold a coyote. Loss of sets may be a sign coyotes have moved into your area. In self-defence you should learn about

FURBEARER LICENSE SALES

County	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83
Annapolis	186	215	282	296	293	250
Antigonish	175	219	249	257	236	185
Colchester	223	277	321	364	379	339
Cumberland	422	462	539	473	587	518
Digby	197	177	222	230	222	186
Guysborough	221	284	305	294	293	257
Halifax	312	412	607	556	546	504
Hants	219	244	303	312	341	309
Kings	210	287	341	308	340	289
Lunenburg	221	267	341	362	362	283
Pictou	273	376	455	493	493	421
Queens	179	202	244	245	251	184
Shelburne	160	182	243	242	234	181
Yarmouth	234	277	332	328	312	267
Cape Breton	87	119	165	201	193	159
Inverness	103	148	214	225	212	172
Richmond	56	100	140	141	125	100
Victoria	75	98	122	124	102	90
	3,553	4,328	5,425	5,451	5,521	4,694

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A thin section cut from the root of the bobcat's canine tooth will be stained and observed under a microscope to tell the animal's age.

coyote equipment and trapping techniques. We hope to have demonstrations on equipment and techniques to help trappers better understand the basics. Look for this at the upcoming annual trappers' convention.

Bobcat

During 1980-81, we saw the low of the rabbit cycle in all regions of Nova Scotia. We expected the low in the population of predators that feed on rabbits, the bobcat in this case, two years later (1982-83). In an effort to ease the trapping pressure on bobcat during this decline, a delayed snaring season was implemented last fall and will be in force again this fall (1983-84).

Trappers have been very responsive in supplying Department of Lands and Forests biologists with bobcat carcasses over the past few years. The biological data has been worked up by Alison Evans (aging and reproduction) and Chris Matlack (fat and food habits).

Analysis of the biological data is still going on so it will be very briefly overviewed here to provide some idea of what's happening.

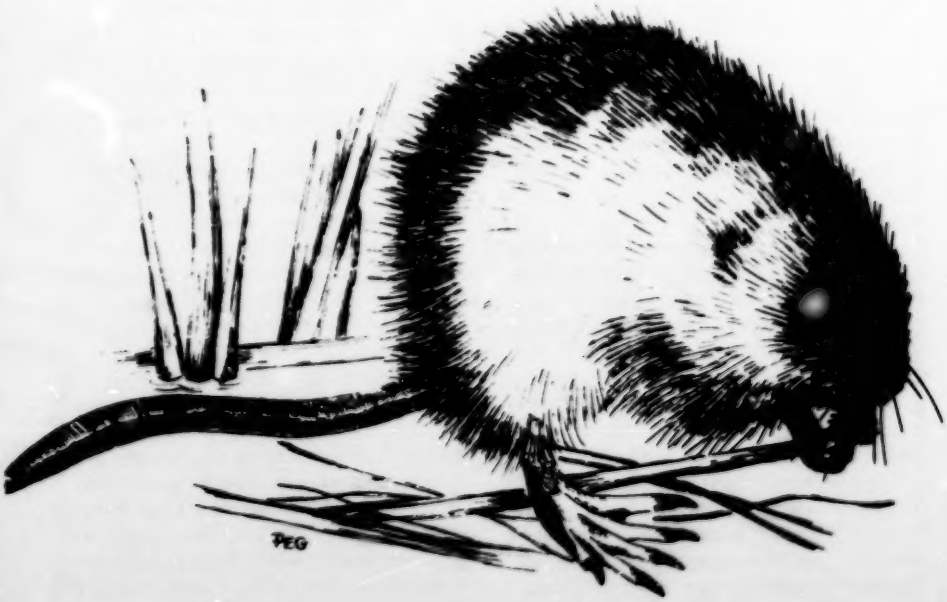
Perhaps surprisingly, there didn't seem to be any significant differences in age ratios between years or between regions of the province to account for the decline in bobcats. Age ratios broke down to roughly 42% kittens, 33% yearlings, 10% 2½-year-olds, 5% 3½-year-olds and 10% older animals.

Any shortages of available food for bobcats (such as a scarcity of rabbits during the low of their cycle for example) should be reflected in the reproductive performance of younger females particularly. In the study of bobcats from Cape Breton done by Gerry Parker, there were 3.3 placental scars in adults during peak rabbit populations, but only 2.4 placental scars three years later (1979-80) when rabbits were scarce.

Comparing these figures with our 1982-83 data, adults averaged 3.3 kittens per pregnant female. One cat in Halifax County had seven scars on her uterus (representing 7 kittens); a yearling in Guysborough County had 5. There were 8 uteri indicating 4 kittens, 23 with 3, 11 with 2 and 11 with 1 scar.

Measuring the fat content of each carcass provided more insight into the mechanism nature uses to keep bobcat populations in balance with the food supply. There was every degree of fatness in every area both in 1980-81 and 1981-82. It seems "normal" for an area to have very fat cats and very thin cats (and everything in between). This may account for the surprising degree of barrenness even in adults (36%). While we don't understand the underlying reasons for such extreme individual variation in bobcats, yearling fat condition could well be another useful index to gauge the status of bobcat populations. Populations held down by overharvesting should be in good shape; populations limited by food should contain a higher proportion of yearlings in poor shape.

It seems then, that a combination of the decline in the rabbit cycle (reaching a low in 80-81) and heavy trapping pressure has brought the cat populations to their present low. The high yearling reproduction rate of 82-83 indicates the cats are responding to improved food conditions and with the reduced snaring regulations we should see an improvement in harvests this season over last.



All the fat attached to the bobcat's internal organs is cut away and weighed to determine the condition of the animal.

BOBCAT CONDITION AND FOOD HABITS

by Chris Matlack
Post-Graduate Student, Acadia University

A study of the condition and food habits of bobcats in the province has been underway since 1980. One thousand carcasses donated by trappers and processed by the Department of Lands and Forests personnel have provided most of the data.

The weight of the fat on the carcass and in the body cavity was used as an index to the condition of each cat. Preliminary results suggest that Cape Breton cats had a higher index (were in better condition) than did mainland cats, although cats with no fat were found in both regions. Older cats were in better condition than younger ones and males were in better condition than females. Cats in general seem to be putting on fat well into January.

More than two-thirds of the cat stomachs contained food items. These were identified and weighed. To complete the year-round food habits picture, we collected scats throughout the province during the spring and summer.

Snowshoe hare is the most important food item occurring in three-quarters of the mainland cats and two-thirds of the Cape Breton Island cats. Deer occurred in one-quarter of stomachs in 1980-81 but fell to one-tenth in the following year. Small mammals like voles and shrews are more prevalent in the diet of the Cape Breton Island bobcat than in his mainland counterpart. Male cats consume deer more often than females. Birds, primarily ruffed grouse, and other mammals like red squirrels and porcupine, make up the remainder of the cat's diet in the province. There doesn't appear to be any major difference in food habits between fall-winter and spring-summer.

FEW TRAPPERS MANY NON TRAPPERS

by Neil van Nostrand

"Antis" are making it clear in their fund-raising campaigns that trapping is indeed a very nasty business — especially the leg-hold trap. Urban people are concerned for the suffering of the furbearers being harvested. They are being admonished by "Friends of Animals" not to buy fur coats.

Suburban and rural dwellers fear for the safety of their pets. Killer-type humane devices capable of killing a cat or dog are therefore not permitted to be set in dangerous places (such as on the ground).

Landowners may be very sensitive to trappers setting traps on their land for any of the above reasons but more likely because of past bad experiences from disrespectful trespassers. We now have a "protection of property Act" to ensure that people "ask permission first." Houndsmen have a lot in common with the trapper, but of course, don't like to see their dogs caught in a trap. Compromises have to be worked out between all of the groups involved.

Many of the eastern states have a cons-

Bobcat stomach contents are emptied into a sieve and washed so all the items can be identified.

tant battle to maintain their trapping laws especially where there are large urban areas (like New York City) with no strong cultural ties to the land.

The trapping industry now recognizes that the situation is sufficiently critical to warrant large organized and wide-spread counter measures in the form of public relations campaigns in response to the anti-fur propaganda. In addition, longer term education material must be prepared for use in schools in order to help both teachers and pupils understand some of the basic realities of the fur industry and what is being done to manage it and make trapping more humane.

In the past, directors and managers of wildlife responded to the early warning signs in Canada by setting up and sponsoring the "Federal Provincial Committee for Humane Trapping". This committee was set up in 1973. It was designed to recommend the most humane traps for taking furbearers in Canada. It concluded with its report in 1981, without solving the basic problem.

Trappers began organizing during the 1960's in order to better inform themselves and to provide an effective voice with which to defend their way of life and improve their act. Early efforts highlighted trapping facts to better inform the public, and trapper education to teach trappers better techniques for taking furbearers more humanely.

This fall, the Fur Institute of Canada is born. It will combine the interests and efforts of major segments of the fur industry such as fur managers, trappers, auction houses, fur buyers, processors, retailers and fur ranchers. Together they expect to pool their resources and agree on a strategy to combat anti-fur propaganda both in the short and long term.

The following are some of the challenges facing the fur industry in general and the Fur Institute of Canada in particular.

1. To defend wild furbearer harvest honestly, in a world-wide preservationist climate, already sensitized by anti-killing propaganda and well-publicized demonstrations.

2. To counteract widespread misinformation about trapping.

3. To present a true story of the fur industry emphasizing its profound historical background of survival, exploration, discovery and early trading influences; the everyday life of the modern-day trapper; importance of fur to native and northern trappers; the modern management of furbearer resources; and the search for more humane traps and the teaching of their use to trappers.

4. To relate the basic principles used to manage furbearer resources to those which apply to man's use of any of the living resources on which all our well-being depends.

5. To teach masses of humanity trapped in cities (a) something about the laws of nature and how they relate to their own survival; (b) the important difference between killing an animal and destroying its habitat; (c) the important difference between using a renewable resource like fur and a non-renewable one like oil; (d) the wisdom of working with nature and within natural systems as in furbearer management; and (e) the folly of our civilization in allowing our artificial life-support systems to destroy the natural systems which support the artificial.

The basic challenge seems to be to re-establish good communication on a massive scale between the people who better understand our ecosystems and those who have lost touch with the natural world which supports them. The goal should be to encourage greater contact of people with the real natural world (as opposed to the way it is portrayed on TV). Understanding can only come through real experience. Without understanding we cannot help but fail.

NUMBER OF N.S. WILD FUR PELTS EXPORTED AVERAGE PRICES AND VALUE TO TRAPPER: 1980-81, 1981-82, 1982-83

	1980-81			1981-82			1982-83		
Species	No. Exported	Average Price	Total Value	No. Exported	Average Price	Total Value	No. Exported	Average Price	Total Value
Beaver	4,071	$ 35.05	$ 142,689.	3,761	$ 22.46	$ 84,472.	2,663	$ 17.34	$ 46,176
Muskrat	47,892	7.03	336,681.	51,941	4.30	223,346.	42,929	3.43	147,246
Otter	592	69.87	41,363.	571	50.89	29,058.	450	52.56	23,652
Mink	3,974	25.10	99,747.	4,362	24.49	106,825.	3,622	16.75	60,669
Lynx	0	227.81	--	2	180.50	361.	3	229.98	690
Bobcat	1,667	139.98	236,146.	1,722	155.28	267,392.	1,164	144.77	168,512
Fox	1,793	71.54	128,271.	2,346	58.47	137,171.	2,320	52.84	122,589
Raccoon	10,181	41.77	425,260.	12,362	27.36	338,224.	8,511	15.31	130,303
Weasel	1,233	.65	801.	1,148	1.21	1,389.	1,215	1.05	1,276
Squirrel	3,314	.86	2,850.	1,843	.90	1,659.	8,554	0.71	6,073
Skunk	65	2.89	188.	23	3.50	81.	19	3.03	58
Fisher	31	126.15	3,911.	45	160.02	7,201.	25	102.25	2,556
Black Bear	39	57.80	2,254.	13	41.00	533.	30	45.32	1,360
Coyote	17	58.50	99.4	39	28.87	1,126.	72	22.70	1,634
			$1,421,155			$1,198,838.			$712,794

* The "average price" is an estimate of what the trapper should average. It is obtained each year from published reports of mid-winter fur auction sales in Quebec and Ontario where representative prices are paid for Nova Scotia and/or comparable eastern Canadian furs. This "average price" was calculated by averaging the highest and lowest prices obtained for each species and deducting 15% to arrive at the average value paid to the trapper. This apparently has been the traditional method used for arriving at these estimates for Nova Scotia.

FURBEARERS TAKEN AND VALUE BY COUNTY: 1981-82, 1982-83

COUNTY:	ANNAPOLIS			DIGBY			KINGS			LUNENBURG			QUEENS			SHELBURNE			YARMOUTH		
Species:	81-82	82-83	Value 82-83	81-82	82-83	Value 82-83	81-82	82-83	Value 82-83	81-82	82-83	Value 82-83	81-82	82-83	Value 82-83	81-82	82-83	Value 82-83	81-82	82-83	Value 82-83
Beaver	208	163	2.826	162	145	2.514	136	69	1.196	255	199	3.451	156	111	1.925	185	112	1.942	179	101	1.751
Muskrat	2.026	1.657	5.684	975	994	3.409	4.272	3.938	13.507	1.177	1.247	4.277	328	508	1.742	954	688	2.380	2.321	1.824	6.256
Otter	22	11	578	15	11	578	7	17	894	52	41	2.155	23	122	1.156	20	22	1.156	31	11	578
Mink	185	181	3.032	224	240	4.020	282	209	3.501	318	260	4.355	101	139	2.328	341	285	4.774	391	332	5.561
Lynx	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bobcat	70	34	4.922	66	18	2.606	44	40	5.791	116	63	9.121	92	80	5.791	95	76	11.003	62	37	5.356
Raccoon	628	610	9.339	389	416	6.369	1.042	867	13.274	627	601	9.201	121	197	3.016	134	129	1.975	150	181	2.771
Skunk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	6	56	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Squirrel	280	348	247	319	385	273	92	186	132	133	336	239	9	98	70	73	129	92	6	204	145
Weasel	113	71	75	26	20	21	37	29	30	47	21	22	3	21	22	28	15	16	13	15	16
Fisher	1	1	102	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	102	0	0	0	1	0	0
Coyote	1	2	45	2	2	45	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	91

COUNTY:	ANTIGONISH			COLCHESTER			CUMBERLAND			GUYSBOROUGH			HALIFAX			HANTS			PICTOU		
Species:	81-82	82-83	Value 82-83	81-82	82-83	Value 82-83	81-82	82-83	Value 82-83	81-82	82-83	Value 82-83	81-82	82-83	Value 82-83	81-82	82-83	Value 82-83	81-82	82-83	Value 82-83
Beaver	150	77	1.335	143	87	1.509	479	312	5.410	193	122	2.115	421	289	5.011	115	98	1.699	224	197	3.416
Muskrat	3.930	1.808	6.201	3.604	3.542	12.149	13.918	13.371	45.863	1.180	1.006	3.451	1.596	2.196	7.532	1.528	2.125	7.289	2.865	2.276	7.807
Otter	13	13	683	14	16	841	3	5	263	67	60	3.154	104	83	4.362	4	9	473	16	12	631
Mink	100	77	1.289	196	174	2.915	316	302	5.059	216	225	3.769	378	398	6.667	110	152	2.546	96	62	1.039
Lynx	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bobcat	23	21	3.040	91	68	9.844	131	63	9.121	234	197	28.520	238	182	26.348	56	47	6.804	87	70	10.134
Raccoon	410	271	4.149	868	711	10.885	1.213	1.191	18.234	236	234	3.583	543	545	8.344	1.025	987	15.111	1.462	1.253	19.183
Skunk	5	2	6	23	18	55	2	10	30	2	2	6	0	0	0	3	9	27	1	14	42
Squirrel	40	174	124	120	1.503	1.067	71	149	106	124	374	266	94	711	505	105	182	129	89	111	79
Weasel	18	11	12	61	75	79	77	59	62	156	114	120	133	94	99	25	42	44	42	28	29
Fisher	2	1	102	10	11	1.125	13	4	409	6	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	511
Coyote	2	4	91	1	8	182	1	4	91	2	18	409	2	6	136	3	4	91	3	13	295

COUNTY:	CAPE BRETON			INVERNESS			RICHMOND			VICTORIA			Grand Total for Nova Scotia		
Species:	81-82	82-83	Value 82-83	81-82	82-83	Value 82-83	81-82	82-83	Value 82-83	81-82	82-83	Value 82-83	81-82	82-83	Value 82-83
Beaver	272	119	2.083	346	244	4.231	95	40	694	58	56	971	3.777	2.541	44.081
Muskrat	2.854	2.147	7.384	3.029	2.755	9.450	935	431	1.478	544	294	1.008	48.075	42.807	146.828
Otter	58	36	1.892	17	12	631	42	13	999	33	17	894	541	417	21.918
Mink	292	237	3.970	126	132	2.211	131	106	1.776	90	44	737	3.863	3.555	59.546
Lynx	2	3	680	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	680
Bobcat	20	17	2.481	81	67	9.700	32	18	2.606	43	27	3.909	1.502	1.085	157.075
Fox	109	134	7.081	138	150	7.926	50	40	2.114	58	32	1.691	2.258	2.140	113.078
Raccoon	68	61	934	19	35	536	5	6	92	87	13	199	9.045	8.308	127.195
Skunk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	92	58	176
Squirrel	8	24	17	26	54	38	20	41	29	3	7	5	1.621	5.016	3.561
Weasel	57	77	81	111	278	292	62	43	45	40	92	97	1.069	1.105	1.162
Fisher	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	23	2.352
Coyote	0	0	0	0	1	23	0	1	23	1	3	68	20	70	1.589
															670.231

THE COYOTE
A NEW MAMMAL
NEW
CHALLENGES

by Mike O'Brien

For better or worse, Nova Scotia has recently acquired a new resident mammal — the eastern coyote *(Canis latrans var.)*. Restricted to western North America prior to 1900, the coyote has rapidly extended its range eastward through the northeastern United States and Canada since that time.

Repeating the pattern experienced in New Brunswick in the early seventies, the Nova Scotia coyote population (as indicated by harvest records) has expanded rapidly (see Figure 1) since the first confirmed specimen was taken in Guysborough County in 1977. Now established throughout the mainland and Cape Breton Island, the population and harvest are expected to continue to increase.

The eastern coyote is basically a western coyote which has picked up significant wolf and dog characteristics through interbreeding. These give the eastern coyote a much larger body size, a darker, more variable and lower quality pelt, plus some wolf-like behavioural characteristics. The coyote, as a species, might aptly be called a "survivor." Throughout its range the coyote has proven its great adaptability, not only colonizing but thriving in a wide range of situations. Unlike the wolf or the western coyote, our eastern "hybrid" has all the qualities needed to thrive throughout the former range of the wolf in close proximity to human habitation.

The coyote is a very adaptable and opportunistic feeder, and a proficient hunter and scavenger. In addition to its staple foods, rodents and snowshoe hares, the coyote diet may also include vegetation, carrion, garbage, birds, deer and domestic livestock, as available. Potential for large litter size (2-16, average 5) and high proportion of females breeding (including yearlings) allow coyote populations to persist even under intensive exploitation and/or control efforts.

The arrival of a new wild canine predator species has important implications for Nova Scotia.

(a) As a new furbearer available for harvest, the wary coyote should challenge the abilities of even the most experienced trappers. This is a mixed blessing, however, as competition by this aggressive new predator for food and territories is expected to result in reductions in populations of bobcats and red foxes. This is not good news for the trapping industry as both red fox and bobcat pelts are considerably more valuable than the poor quality fur of the eastern coyote.

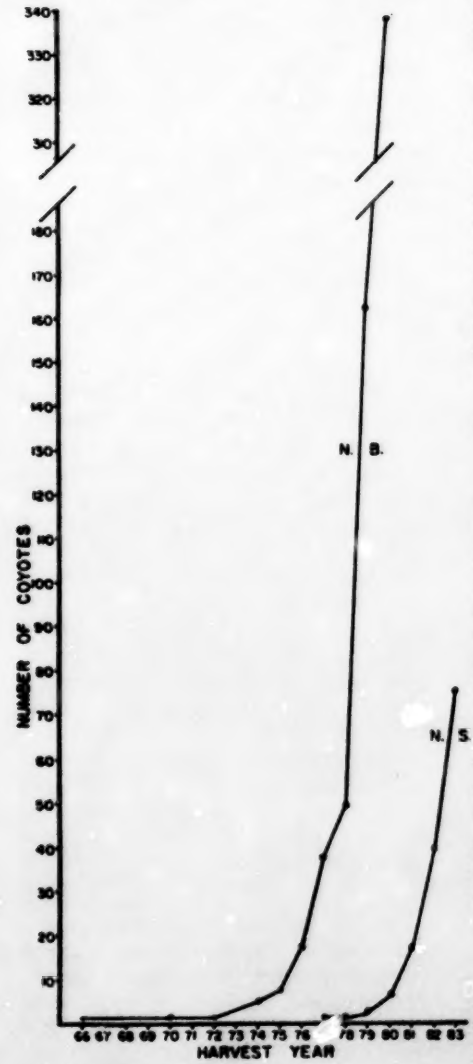
(b) Inevitably its predatory feeding habits put the coyote in direct conflict with human interests and activities, especially game and livestock production. Studies in other areas of North America have indicated that predation by coyotes may limit deer numbers in very localized areas but cannot limit whole populations. Nonetheless, when noticeable local predation does occur, as it has and will continue to do in Nova Scotia, it raises considerable concern among local sportsmen — concern which must be addressed by the agency responsible for wildlife management.

Depredation of livestock by problem coyotes has already, and will continue, to pose serious local problems for producers of sheep and to a lesser extent other livestock in Nova Scotia. This problem is common throughout the coyote's range wherever livestock operations occur and is likely to increase as the coyote population and livestock production continue to grow.

Public Attitude

Public attitude towards the newly-acquired predator varies. Most people know little about the coyote population. As the population is still relatively low, sightings are not common. For the most part the general public is barely aware of its existence in Nova Scotia. Of those who are aware, attitudes of most would range from indifference to limited enthusiasm at the presence of a new wolf-like species filling the former niche of the timber wolf in our province. Few could argue the aesthetic pleasure of a coyote howl on a still, moonlit evening. Even among trappers and hunters, attitudes tend to be indifferent or positive, with the only reservation being concern for potential negative effects on other furbearer and deer populations. It is the livestock (particularly sheep) producers and agricultural authorities who are most concerned, and justifiably so, as it is for them that the coyote presents the most obvious threat for present and future operations. Increasing occurrence of sheep-killing by coyotes has resulted in individual livestock producers and agricultural organizations calling on government to take action to control coyote populations and limit predator damage.

Figure 1.
Coyote harvests in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia



Short-Term Approaches

The Lands and Forests Act currently permits an owner or his agent to destroy, by appropriate means, any animal doing or about to do damage to private property (including livestock) on land owned or leased by him. With concern mounting over coyote problems, government removed the coyote from the list of protected Nova Scotia furbearers in November, 1982. This change allows anyone to destroy or possess coyotes (pelts or carcasses) at any time of year without a permit. While the coyote may be shot at any time, it is still classed as a furbearer and as such may only be trapped or snared during the regular trapping season (November to February, inclusive), except for the protection of private property.

Later, at the request of agricultural interests, a bounty of $50 per coyote was instituted (presentation of the carcass for positive identification by skull

measurements is required). Past experience in Nova Scotia and elsewhere has proven this type of regulation to be ineffective in population control of predators. However, as a temporary measure, until a more effective approach can be implemented, the coyote bounty will reassure concerned livestock producers that the government is responding to their problem. In addition, the bounty should draw more public attention to this problem and may, through increased monetary incentive, stimulate competent trappers to experiment and adapt their trapping techniques and equipment to become more effective coyote trappers. Eventually, after coyotes reach stable populations in this province, trappers might be able to harvest the annual population surplus thereby reducing some of the potential problems with sheep and deer.

Long-Term Approaches

It became obvious that Nova Scotia needed to develop a more comprehensive long-term plan to cope with the "coyote problem". Key to this effort is the need for a better understanding of the animal and the circumstances surrounding associated problems. To this end a study of the biology of colonizing coyote populations in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia was recently completed and co-operative studies are continuing to determine more about the expanding population. This work is facilitated by the mandatory submission of carcasses required to collect the bounty.

Since, in other areas of North America, sheep-coyote and other coyote problems are certainly not new, we recognized that we could benefit greatly from the advice and technical expertise of individuals competent in dealing with coyote problems. In February, 1983, two professional animal damage control specialists were recruited from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They presented a series of seminars for government officials, agricultural interests and trappers with the aim of creating a better understanding of coyotes and coyote problems. The seminars and subsequent discussion of the problem among interested groups proved most productive and will provide a basis for developing a practical, realistic approach to the problem.

Through the learning experience thus far a number of points are now clear:

1. Coyotes and associated potential problems are here to stay.

2. Predator damage control (as opposed to large-scale population control) is the only viable option for coping with problem coyotes in this province.

3. If the extent of the problem becomes such that there is sufficient damage to warrant it, predator control will be most effectively accomplished by a full-time predator control officer with the necessary skills and equipment and time to devote to the problem.

4. Information and education will be an important aspect of a continuing response to coyote problems. Further seminars and distribution of printed education materials for government agency personnel, livestock interests and trappers will facilitate better understanding and ability to cope with the problem. Livestock producers can be guided in helping themselves. Operations may be modified (where possible) to minimize damage and/or increase protection. Better fencing (including electric), repellents and other techniques may be useful in various situations. The ability of trappers to capture coyotes can be improved. Government agencies can play an important role in facilitating co-operation between trappers and landowners to provide assistance with coyote problems.

5. No one tool or approach is the "super solution" to the problem. A multi-method approach, responding to specific situations and supplemented by information and education programs, will be the most effective course of action.

RESOLUTION TO MARK TRAPS AND SNARES

"Be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Wildlife Federation urge the Department of Lands and Forests to initiate as soon as possible, some sort of program of marking the traps and snares of each individual trapper in the province of Nova Scotia, for purposes of identifying the owners of said traps and snares."

If trapping continues to decline at the rate indicated by the decrease in the number of furbearer licenses sold last year, then perhaps many of the problems trappers have to contend with today will soon disappear. However, assuming that trapping is to continue on a reasonable scale in the near future, it would be better for trappers to design their own system of marking traps and snares rather than have a poor system imposed by increasingly irrate sportsmen, landowners and other interested non-trappers.

There are sure to be some disadvantages and even risks, which go along with compulsory marking of traps and snares. But these diminish in importance compared to the long-term advantages to the trapper:

1. Trappers will make more of an effort to ask permission before trapping on private land.
2. Traps will be less likely to be stolen.
3. Legally-set snares will be more apt to be picked up at the end of the season.

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APPLICATION FOR "MEMBERSHIP"

I hereby apply for "Membership" in the Trappers' Association of Nova Scotia and I agree to abide by its By-laws . . .

PLEASE PRINT

SURNAME _____ Date _____

Given Names _____

FULL ADDRESS _____

_____

_____

Postal Code - (_____) (_____)

Occupation _____

Age (_____) Approx. No. Yrs. trapping (_____)Yrs.

Check for RENEWAL (_____) or NEW MEMBER(_____).

Payment enclosed "Membership" ($5) - (_____)

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PLEASE send Payment with Application

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Secretary-Treasurer
Trappers' Association of Nova Scotia
P.O. Box 553, Wolfville, N.S.
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TRAPPING COURSE AND T.A.N.S. CONVENTION

Trap sets, pelt preparation and humane trapping techniques will be taught at this free two-day course held at the Windsor Exhibition Grounds, Jan. 19 & 20. For further information, contact Roy Miles, Box 553, Wolfville, 542-5834, or Neil van Nostrand, Box 516, Kentville, 678-8921. The annual T.A.N.S. convention follows on Saturday, Jan. 21.

The compulsory trapper education course and test for first-year trappers has been agreed to in principle by the Minister of Lands and Forests, but details have yet to be worked out so that legislation can be prepared.

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